

CLAIMS

1. Device (20) for opening and closing the hood (1) of the trunk (2) of a folding-top convertible vehicle, this device (20) including means for controlling opening of the hood (1) in the forward direction to store luggage in the trunk (2) and opening of the said hood (1) in the backward direction to pass and store the folded roof in the trunk (2), this opening being controlled by at least one main jack (5), the base (6) of which is installed in an articulated manner on a part (7) of the bodywork (8) adjacent to the bottom (9) of the trunk (2), and the free end (10) of the rod (11) of which is fixed to the said hood (1), characterised in that it also comprises a balancing jack (21) adapted to facilitate manual opening of the hood (1) in the forward direction for the storage of luggage in the trunk (2), and manual closing of the said hood (1) in the opposite direction, this balancing jack (21) having its base (22) connected to the main jack (5) and the free end (23) of its rod (24) fixed in an articulated manner to the hood (1), the said balancing

jack (21) being arranged so that it does not hinder operation of the main jack (5) for automatically opening and closing of the hood (1), the device (20) also including means for making the balancing jack (21) inactive so as to authorise automatic opening or closing of the hood (1), and means for making the balancing jack (21) active so as to authorise manual opening or closing of the hood (1).

2. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises an intermediate device (26) substantially in the shape of an S of which the lower end (27) is fixed in an articulated manner to the base (22) of the balancing jack (21) and of which the top end (28) is fixed in an articulated manner to the free end (10) of the rod (11) of the main jack (5).

3. Device according to claim 2, characterised in that it comprises locking means (30) for detachably fixing the top end (27) of the intermediate device (26) to the hood (1), and means for displacing the said locking means (30) to release the top end (28) of the intermediate device (26) from the hood (1).

4. Device according to claim 3, characterised in that the hood (1) is provided with a hook (31) pivotally installed on the hood (1), and in that the top end (28) of the intermediate device (26) is provided with a latch (32), the hook (31) being adapted to engage the latch (32) to fix the top end (28) of the intermediate device (26) to the hood (1).

5        5. Device according to claim 4, characterised in that the bottom part (33) of the hook (31) is shaped so that it can be pushed by the latch (32) when the hood (1) closes, the hook (31) being adapted to automatically engage the latch (32) when the hood (1) is closed.

10       6. Device according to claim 5, characterised in that the hook (31) is arranged so as to be able to pivot about a first pin (35) with respect to the hood (1), and in that the latch (32) is a second pin (36) parallel to the first pin (35), a spring (37) being arranged to permanently urge the hook (31) in the closing direction (38) of the hook (31).

15       7. Device according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that the hood (1) comprises means (42) for pivoting the hook (31) in order to release it from its position engaged with the latch (32).

20       8. Device according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that the hood (1) comprises a cable (43), one end (44) of which is fixed to the hook (31) and the other end (45) of which is fixed to a control element (46) supported by the hood (1).

25       9. Device according to any one of the above claims, characterised in that the front edge (12) and the back edge (13) of the hood (1) are connected to the bodywork (8) of the vehicle by means of front locks (14) and back locks (15), each having the function of locking and articulating the hood (1) such that the said hood (1) can open in either the backward direction or the forward direction.